

Summary of Weldon Spring Focus Area
Work Session
October 23, 2002
Weldon Spring Interpretive Center

Focus Area: Communication and Public Involvement

Purpose and Goals

David Geiser, Director of the Office of Long-Term Stewardship, referred to the previous public meetings held in June and August as being Phase I of the Long-Term Stewardship Plan process. Phase II involves three focus area work sessions: 1) communication and public involvement, 2) institutional controls and homeland security, and 3) monitoring and maintenance. The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) proposed a timetable for the remaining work sessions and issuance of documents that is provided at the end of this summary.

Ray Plienness, DOE Grand Junction Office Deputy Manager, listed the five major issues related to the communication and public involvement focus area that were identified from the comments received on the draft Long-Term Stewardship Plan. The goals for focusing on these issues were to promote general understanding of concerns and to facilitate communication between DOE and the public on common themes. Each of these five issues was discussed in this work session.

Major Issue 1: Weldon Spring Stewardship Organizations' Roles and Responsibilities

Comments relative to this Major Issue: A-6 and B-2, 4, 11, 33, 41, 50, 56

The response to comment B-2 includes a proposed table to be included in the next draft of the Long-Term Stewardship Plan that delineates organizations and their responsibilities relative to long-term stewardship of the Weldon Spring site. During the work session, the following entities and/or roles were recommended to be added:

Organization	Responsibility/Role
Missouri Department of Transportation	Grantee responsible for land areas within public right-of-way, where two occurrences of residual contamination remain.
St. Charles County <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Parks Division• Health Division• Division of Environmental Quality• Regional Planning Commission• Department of Environmental Services	County public health and welfare, public water supply
Missouri Department of Natural Resources and St. Charles County	Stewardship planning input and oversight
Municipalities in surrounding affected areas	Conduit of public information on site activities
St. Charles Emergency Services	First responders—police, fire, ambulance
University of Missouri	Conduit of public information on site activities

General comment:

- Try to get better participation by municipalities because this is a countywide issue. DOE should provide municipalities with more information.

Major Issue 2: Approval of and Changes to Long-Term Stewardship Plan for Weldon Spring

Comments relative to this Major Issue: B-9, 31, 32, 49; E-2, 4; and J-8, 45

- DOE has revised the schedule for issuing the next draft of the Long-Term Stewardship Plan to spring 2003 to allow sufficient time for the three work sessions and to incorporate any additional necessary changes.
- The Ground Water Operable Unit Proposed Plan will have a separate comment period.
- DOE will host annual public meetings to give a status of the long-term stewardship activities and to address changes to planned activities.
- Emerging issues that require an immediate change will be made; however, once the document is final, DOE is not allowed to make significant changes to the Long-Term Stewardship Plan without regulatory approval.

General comments:

- Suggestion to post ongoing comments/responses to the plan on the website.
- Suggestion to email interested parties of an upcoming change.

Major Issue 3: Communication Approaches To Maintain Awareness of Site Issues

Comments relative to this Major Issue: A-7, 15, 26, 142, 143, 144, 148, 149, 152, 162, 171, 194, 200, 210, 212, 213, 215, 216, 237, 238, 263, 264; B-3, 27, 28, 29, 36, 39, 56, 58; C-26, 28; D-3, 7; E-16, 18; F-17, 20, 21, 22, 23; I-3; and J-6, 13, 26, 34, 35, 36, 44, 46, 47, 48, 49, 52, 53, 58, 59, 62

Need for posting of areas with residual contamination

- DOE's response to comments regarding the posting of signs or barriers stated that warning signs are not needed because there is not a risk. However, DOE is willing to consider posting historical-type markers or informational signs that would, for example, refer people to the Interpretive Center for additional information. DOE committed to forming a small committee to work on wording for such signs.

General comments:

- Use wording and units of measure that are understandable to the general public.
- The public does not necessarily agree that there is no risk (e.g., areas with institutional controls).
- Suggestion to have pamphlets available next to the signs.
- Identify restrictions on use.

Public involvement requirements and opportunities

- The response to comment B-56 is DOE's proposed plan for involving the public.
- Mr. Geiser passed around a flowchart from the July 2001 draft plan and it was agreed to add it to the current plan.

- Mr. Geiser also asked if links to other websites from the DOE Grand Junction Office website should be added.

Accessibility of existing site documents and references and future reports and data

- Response B-58 addresses availability of documents.
- Mr. Plienness explained pamphlets that were handed out on two long-term stewardship projects that will allow users to access or request documents online and to view interactive mapping and environmental monitoring data related to the Weldon Spring site. These two projects are being developed for the Weldon Spring site and should be available in early 2003. Environmental data will be posted after validation, approximately 60 days after sample collection. Click here to view the [Records Query](#) pamphlet or the [Geospatial Environmental Mapping System](#) pamphlet.
- Reference copies of some documents are available at the Middendorf-Kredell Branch Library.

General comments/questions:

- Suggestion to have a computer available in the Interpretive Center with website access. This should be set up now while the resources and equipment are available.
- Does the index to the Administrative Records for the project provide a description of each document contained in the file? Answer: The index does not provide a description; however, all of the documents in the existing Administrative Records will be included on the Long-Term Stewardship Records website (<http://lts1.gjo.doe.gov/>) and will include a description of each document.

Major Issue 4: Emergency Notifications and Coordination for Contingency Planning

Comments relative to this Major Issue: A-161, 206, 209, 220, 239, 249, 255; B-30, 36, 37, 38, 42, 52, 53; D-6; E-15, 17, 21; F-14, 15, 16, 19; and J-3, 54, 56, 55, 57

- Section 3.9 of the draft plan addresses actions that would trigger an emergency notification. These triggers will be clarified. A trigger is basically something that poses a risk to human health or the environment.
- A contact system has been established with local responders. This response system was tested before the completion of the disposal cell. No response exercises have been conducted since completion; however, DOE is in communication with responders.
- DOE agreed that this system needs to be checked periodically to ensure an effective response is established.
- If any action is required, the appropriate notifications will be made in a timely manner.

General comments/questions:

- Has the possibility of an earthquake been addressed? Answer: The disposal cell has been designed to withstand a maximum credible seismic event as well as a probable maximum precipitation event.
- DOE should ask responders to consider including the Weldon Spring site in their response scenarios and plans.

Major Issue 5: Funding

Comments relative to this Major Issue: B-55; C-2; D-2; and J-16, 17, 19, 23, 66

- DOE must request money to fulfill the long-term stewardship requirements. DOE feels this federal funding process is adequate. The Long-Term Stewardship Plan for this site is an enforceable document.
- The Missouri Department of Natural Resources is looking into a long-term funding mechanism, such as a guardian trust. If such a mechanism is established, DOE would accept this funding if directed by Congress.
- Budget projections will be included in the draft plan. According to the House of Representatives, long-term stewardship will be a line item in the fiscal year 2004 budget.
- DOE would need to go back to Congress to get additional funding for significant unplanned expenses.
- Funding for the Weldon Spring site is specifically called out within the Grand Junction Office budget for long-term stewardship. The amount for fiscal year 2003 is approximately \$800,000. However, funding at this level does not appear in the President's budget.
- This includes funding for the Weldon Spring Citizens Commission, Missouri Department of Natural Resources, and St. Charles County. Funding for Francis Howell School district was eliminated because DOE feels it no longer contributes to the protectiveness of the site.
- Attendance at the Interpretive Center will be monitored and DOE hopes it will continue to be part of the remedy. If the center is not used, DOE may need to reconsider keeping it open.

General comments/questions:

- Attendees asked about the promotion of the Interpretive Center and use by local schools. DOE has long played an active role in the Partners in Education program in the local area schools. Large groups of students (ranging from 100 - 150 students per visit) from local elementary and secondary schools visit the site on a regular basis. DOE wants to continue that relationship. The site is not currently included in the Missouri Department of Tourism book. DOE is considering this; however, it would be to promote the site for education purposes, not as a tourist attraction. DOE is also exploring cooperative efforts with the Busch Conservation Area.
- Is DOE considering staffing the center in the future? Answer: Yes.

Public Comments on Process and Considerations for the Next Work Session

Format

- DOE solicited feedback on the use of this format for future work sessions. The general consensus was that this is a good format.
- DOE will post a summary of this meeting, including actions or changes DOE committed to, on the DOE Grand Junction Office website. There will not be a formal response provided for each comment.
- Other organizations are welcome to link to the DOE Grand Junction Office website for Weldon Spring (www.gjo.doe.gov/programs/ltsm/maps/mo-i.htm). Users can submit comments from the website at weldoncomments@gjo.doe.gov.

General comments:

- Suggestion to have an open house 1/2 hour before the meeting for people to come and ask questions and familiarize themselves with the topic and materials.
- Suggestion to make the list of comments associated with the work session focus area available prior to the meeting, such as posting them on the web. DOE will try to make information for the next work session available ahead of time.
- DOE might want to consider why attendance at this meeting dropped from the August workshop.

Timetable

- DOE is working on responses to Long-Term Stewardship Plan comments submitted by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. DOE plans to post these responses on the website by November 5 and mailed to requestors.

General comments:

- The public wants DOE to take the time necessary to prepare a better product.
- Suggestion to post the timetable provided at the meeting on the website. See below.

September 10, 2002	Comments due on draft <i>Long-Term Stewardship Plan for the Weldon Spring, Missouri, Site</i>
October 10, 2002	Responses to comments posted on Internet at www.gjo.doe.gov/programs/ltsm/maps/mo-i.htm and mailed to requestors
October 23, 2002	Focus Area Work Session: Communication and Public Participation
December 5, 2002	Focus Area Work Session: Land Use and Institutional Controls
January 2002	Focus Area Work Session: Monitoring and Maintenance
January 2003	Weldon Spring LTSM Program website <ul style="list-style-type: none">– On-line viewing of all site documents listed in the Weldon Spring <i>Long-Term Stewardship Plan</i> and key documents contained in the completed Administrative Records– On-line viewing of historical water-quality and water-level data for existing wells
Spring 2003	Issue revised draft <i>Long-Term Stewardship Plan</i>
Spring 2003	Issue draft Proposed Plan for the Ground Water Operable Unit
Fiscal Year 2003	Add key Weldon Spring documents to the LTSM Program website

Other comments/questions:

- The Grand Junction Office asked for feedback on its website.
- The following comments and questions, brought up during this work session, will be addressed in the monitoring and maintenance focus area work session:
 - Explain how a fly over would be done.
 - Identify owner or responsible party for performing maintenance or auditing.